GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:662
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2001
PRIVATE TELEPHONE OPERATORS
GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAV;PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages where private companies have provided telephone connections;

(b) whether the private companies have achieved the target of 25 per cent;

(c) the names of the companies who have achieved this target;

(d) whether the corporation will have to face cut throat competition due to this; and

(e) the action taken against those companies who have not followed the conditions of the Union Government?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) A total of 607 Village Public Telephones (VPTs) have been provided so far by the private operator companies of basic telephone service.

(b) The VPT targets committed by them are enclosed.

(c) None of these private companies has achieved their committed targets.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) to (c) above.

(e) The Liquidated Damage (LD) charges have been recovered from them, as provided for in the licence agreement, for delay in fulfillment of the committed performance obligations in this respect. Further, they have also been asked to complete the unfulfilled committed roll out obligations by December, 2002 for which submission of additional Performance Bank Guarantees and Deed of Guarantees has been demanded.